



County of Placer

Fish and Game Commission

11477 E Avenue ▪ Auburn, CA 95603 ▪ (530) 889-7372

District 1 – Don Gould

District 2 – Mark Fowler

District 3 – Jim Victorine

District 5 – Kari Freidig

District 5 – Mickey Daniels

District 5 – Scott Husmann

District 4 – Gary Flanagan

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 6:00 P.M.

Placer County Planning Commission Hearing Room

3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA

County Contact: Ed King

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Mark Fowler at 6:00 pm
2. **Roll Call** – Present: Gould, Fowler, Victorine, Freidig, Daniels, Husmann, Flanagan

Members of the Public: James Haufler, Friends of Auburn Ravine

3. **Approval of November 15, 2017 Agenda** – moved by Gould, seconded by Flanagan, MPUV. **Approval of September 27, 2017 Minutes**, moved by Husmann, seconded by Victorine, MPUV.

4. **Public Comment:** Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Fish and Game Commission not included on this agenda for no longer than five (5) minutes. **No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment.** None

5. **Financial Report**

Operational expenditures through October totaled \$1,414.

Court fines and penalty assessments totaled \$133.

6. **Agency Reports**

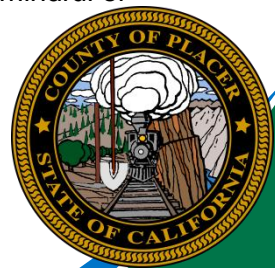
A. Commissioner Reports – Jim Victorine reported witnessing salmon being snagged on the Feather River.

Scott Husmann – gave report to Foresthill Chamber of Commerce informing them of the Commission's purpose and activities. Also gave updates at the Foresthill Forum.

Kari Freidig – suggested updating the Commission's email contact list.

Gary Flanagan – reported on the Auburn Ravine camera project which is used to monitor fish passage at the Lincoln gauging station (HP developing software to reduce the time for viewing the fish). Carcass genetic study is underway – for the last three weeks – an Eagle Scout project with Lincoln Boy Scouts. Also found water hyacinth in Auburn Ravine and will try to find the source as to where they are coming from, and will try to inform residents along the stream to be mindful of flushing invasive plants out of their ponds.

The Fish & Game Commission is composed of appointed community members whose purpose is to advise the Board of Supervisors on matters regarding conservation and management of fish and wildlife. Residents are encouraged to attend and provide input. Placer County is committed to ensuring that persons with disabilities are provided the resources to participate fully in public meeting. If you require disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aid or services, to attend or participate in this meeting, please contact the Placer County Agriculture Department at (530) 889-7372.



- B. State Fish & Game Commission Subcommittee:** Mark Fowler reported that Biologists are expecting a good quail-hunting season; the Nimbus fish ladder is open; new laws are in place regarding poaching of elk, deer, etc., and what are described as trophy animals; fines will be increased. Pheasant season is open and runs through Jan 24th.
- C. Land Use Subcommittee:** Scott Husmann, Don Gould – 5 applications forwarded for CEQA Initial Study review: 390 acre parcel minor subdivision; 13 acre parcel split; flag pole project in Granite Bay, and; Double S subdivision in Roseville at Cook Riolo and Vineyard Rd - 38 acre parcel for 47 housing units with a wetland are on property. Since there are no connecting corridors, isolation of the wetland will limit its viability. Freidig advocated that the Commission submit comments identifying concerns with isolating the wetland area. Freidig will find research to back up this concern and work with Husmann to draft comment letter.
- D. Department of Fish & Wildlife** – not present.
- E. Nevada Irrigation District and Placer County Water Agency**
NID: As of November 13, 2017: Storage = 189,100 AF; 71% of capacity; 126% of average for this date. Storage has increased about 5,000 AF since the end of the irrigation season. Precipitation = 8.3 inches; 90% of average for this date; no snow so far, based on the forecast maybe some snow later this week.
- PCWA:** Storage – Middle Fork Project – 185,000 acre feet, 54% of capacity, 108% of average to date. 6.5 inches of rain at Hell Hole since October 1st. Just completed some major capital improvement projects. Ralston slide area has been cleared, some roads only have one lane open. Eleven Pines, Mosquito Ridge and road to Georgetown have Federal emergency dollars to get fixed.

7. Informational Items

Ben Ransom, Senior Environmental Scientist, Placer County Water Agency

Summary of Middle Fork American River Project fish and wildlife surveys.

Fish and wildlife studies were conducted as part of PCWA's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission re-licensing of the American River Middle Fork Project that includes 5 power houses, Hell Hole and French Meadows reservoirs (342,000 acre feet combined storage), and 7 dams/diversions. Study results will influence how future facility operations are managed. No study of this scope had been previously conducted. 28 technical study plans were implemented by PCWA with stakeholder and consultant input including analysis of cultural, land management, recreation, terrestrial, and aquatic resources.

Water temperature monitoring plan started in 2004 throughout the Middle Fork Project. Water temperature map shows variance in temperatures throughout the system with coldest results below French Meadows and Hell Hole. Without the dams, the river would be much warmer throughout the system. Used North Fork American River as a water temperature control. Rainbow and brown trout, hardhead (native minnow with populations decline), pikeminnow, and California roach were monitored. Hardhead, pikeminnow, and roach have limited upstream mobility because of in-stream barriers. Brown and rainbow trout are stocked extensively throughout the Middle Fork Project and are common throughout the project area. Snorkeling and electro fishing surveys were conducted to gauge fish populations. The largest number of fish (especially young ones) were in the smaller creeks, fewer fish in the colder waters. Cycling high and low flows can be challenging for spawning fish and macro invertebrates. PCWA has agreed to reduce peaking flows and also implemented minimum stream flow requirements. Also doing a spawning habitat improvement project above Ralston.

Foothill yellow-legged frogs are a California special species of concern found in the Middle Fork project area and, like hardhead fish, are sensitive to cooler water. Surveys found a fairly strong and stable population of frogs in the Rubicon and Middle Fork American above Ralston Afterbay. Operational changes will help mitigate issues that impact frogs. Flow adjustments coming out of the dams will be more consistent and better mimic the natural flows to aid breeding.

Small Stream Diversion Project: modifications at the Duncan Diversion and two other locations will help remove captured sediment. PCWA will be building a new dam at Duncan with a flat screen that diverts water to a diversion pool which will fill up with sediment and allow the new sediment with overflows to flow with the stream...they are passive diversions, not storage. This will help with costs, maintenance, and disposal. Also constructing Hell Hole seasonal spillway weir improvements. Building a new 6' spillway gate over the dam which will provide an extra 7,500 af of water storage. New Obermeyer bladders will help to control the gates which for better control of water flow and rate of spill. More info at www.relicensing.pcwa.net.

The catwalk access at Middle Bay Reservoir will be built (after relicensing approval) – maybe on the face of the dam, maybe around the powerhouse yard. All the recreational facilities need upgrades, also – especially the French Meadows campground which has 50 year-old water facilities.

Gregg Bates, Executive Director, Dry Creek Conservancy

Presentation on Dry Creek Conservancy's work on Western Placer County watershed issues including salmonid barriers, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and storm water management, along with the need to coordinate projects among various stakeholders. Christine Flowers, Program and Fundraising Manager, also presenting.

Mission statement is on their website: <https://drycreekconservancy.org> This presentation is also on the website. DCC works to pull people together within the Dry Creek watershed and facilitate communication on improvement projects. DCC is starting a new program affiliated with UCCE, like a master gardener project, to get people qualified and interested in some of the projects. Hosting a conference in March focused on managing storm water.

New projects planned – at Riverside in Roseville where Cirby Creek and Dry Creek come together – need to take out barriers for better fish access. Saugstad Park in Roseville – major erosion issues: do major restoration project to help fish and their spawning habitat. Hemphill dam on Auburn Ravine is a continuing discussion. Coon Creek will have a new watershed assessment. Coppin dam on Auburn Ravine and Coon Creek need Placer County to be interested in helping with a solution to this obstruction. The homeless issue is spilling over to creeks of western Placer and Citrus Heights. Another issue is fire and the watershed involvement: need to have better planning for resource management. Using goats to keep fuel load down can be harmful to habitat if not managed correctly. They eat native plants and strip bark off the trees.

Valley-Foothill Watershed Collaborative. Christine Flowers presenting – a project of Dry Creek Conservancy: recruiting and tracking volunteers, citizen science for data collection, partnering for grant applications, serving on advisory committees. Homeless camps are an issue with riparian corridors. Sponsoring LID Conference and other events, conservation landscaping and small landowner BMPs.

Specific Activities benefitting Placer County:

- a. City of Roseville Naturalist Class
- b. City of Roseville Adopt-a-Creek
- c. Project identification for ARB IRWP and SWRP
- d. 6th annual American River Basin Low Impact Development Conference – March 1, 2018 at CalEPA with SWRCB and CSUS OWP
- e. 6th International Marine Debris Conference March 2018 (Impacts of Homeless Encampments)

Creek Week is a big thing in Sacramento County – in it's 27th year. Dry Creek Conservancy has been doing salmon counts since 1997.

All the partners within the collaborative including the Sacramento Area Creeks Council, Laguna Creek Watershed Council, Cbec Eco Engineering, Roseville Urban Forests Foundation, and Trout Unlimited participate in habitat restoration, education and outreach projects, and are available to help with storm water and other project permits. Using college interns to help with computer data.

Potential funding sources: fees for service, grants (www.ValleyFoothill.org), individual contributions, enforcements fines, etc.

Christine@CFenviro.com. Looking for opportunities to partner and to sponsor.

8. Adjournment – 8:04 pm.

No meeting in December. It would be beneficial to implement the planner again to schedule each director to find speakers. Kari will present the planner showing the same order, by District. Don has a speaker for January 24th.